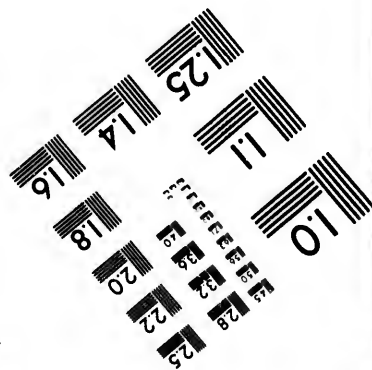
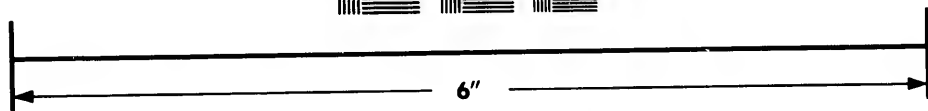
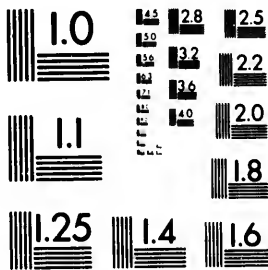


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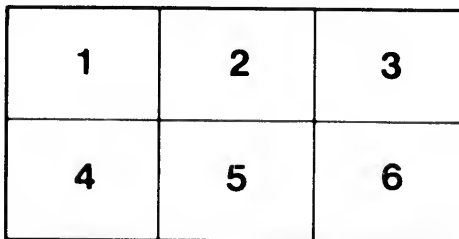
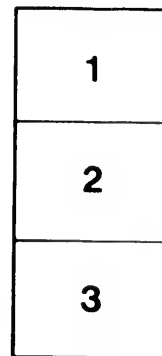
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CONFIDENTIAL.

(5634.)

PART II.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

BOUNDARY

BETWEEN THE

BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

AND THE

TERRITORY OF ALASKA.

1887.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	To Colonial Office ..	..	Jan. 11, 1887	Refers to Colonial Office of 1st December. Views with regard to Colonel Cameron's suggestion that Her Majesty's Government should endeavour to acquire a strip of Alaskan territory from United States' Government	1
2	Sir L. West ..	3	7,	Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on preliminary survey of Convention boundary-line between Alaska and British Columbia ..	1
3	To Colonial Office ..	..	22,	Copy of Sir L. West's No. 268 of the 1st December, 1886.. .. .	1
4	" " ..	..	29,	Copy of No. 2	2
5	Sir L. West ..	14	19,	Amendment in Sundry Civil Expenses Bill providing for expenses of preliminary reconnaissance of boundary-line between Alaska and British Columbia	2
6	To Colonial Office ..	..	Feb. 22,	Copy of Inclosure in No. 5	2
7	Sir L. West ..	64	Mar. 9,	Refers to No. 5. Congress has refused appropriation for preliminary survey of boundary between Alaska and British Columbia ..	2
8	Colonial Office ..	..	May 16,	Governor-General of Canada asks for accurate copy of Treaty of 1825.. .. .	3
9	Memorandum by Sir E. Hertalet ..	..	27,	Refers to No. 8. On request of Governor-General of Canada for accurate copy of Treaty of 1825	3
10	To Colonial Office ..	Confidential	June 14,	Confidential Print, 1886	4
11	" " ..	..	16,	Refers to No. 8. Copy of No. 9, and printed papers	4
12	To Sir L. West ..	140	25,	Confidential Print, 1886	4
13	Colonial Office ..	Confidential	July 11,	Despatch from Canada calling attention to certain points in Report on reconnaissance in Alaska in 1883 by Lieutenant Schwatka, of United States' army	4
14	To Colonial Office ..	..	Aug. 2,	Refers to No. 13. Sends draft to Sir L. West on Lieutenant Schwatka's Report for concurrence	5
15	Colonial Office ..	..	19,	Refers to No. 14. Concurs in draft to Sir L. West	8
16	To Sir L. West ..	206	20,	Refers to No. 5. Copy of No. 13. To call Mr. Bayard's attention to course adopted by Lieutenant Schwatka	8
17	Sir L. West ..	267	Sept. 15,	Refers to No. 16. Has called Mr. Bayard's attention to course adopted by Lieutenant Schwatka	9
18	" " ..	270	18,	Refers to No. 17. Note from Mr. Bayard acknowledging communication with regard to Lieutenant Schwatka	10

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Boundary between the
British Possessions in North America and the Territory of
Alaska.

PART II.

No. 1.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 11, 1887.*
I LAID before the Earl of Iddesleigh your letter of the 1st ultimo, asking for his Lordship's opinion with regard to a suggestion made by Colonel Cameron for acquiring from the United States the strip of Alaska territory from Pearce's Channel to 141° west, which intervenes between the Dominion of Canada and the sea.

I am directed by his Lordship to request that you will inform the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that he considers that the solution suggested by Colonel Cameron would be very satisfactory to this country, but, before deciding as to instructing Her Majesty's Minister at Washington to sound Mr. Secretary Bayard on the subject, Lord Iddesleigh thinks that it would be desirable that Her Majesty's Government should learn the views of the Canadian Government, and what financial engagements they would be prepared to undertake for the object proposed by Colonel Cameron.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 2.

Sir L. West to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Washington, January 7, 1887.*
I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that an amendment to the Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill to provide for the expense of a preliminary survey of the Convention boundary-line between Alaska and British Colombia has been favourably reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

No. 3.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

Foreign Office, January 22, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Sir L. West's No. 268 of December 1, 1886, with duplicates of Maps.]

No. 4.

*Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.**Foreign Office, January 29, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir L. West's No. 3 of January 7, 1887: ante, No. 2.]

No. 5.

Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord,

Washington, January 19, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 237 of the 22nd October last, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of an amendment embodied in the Sundry Civil Expenses Bill, which provides for the expenses of a preliminary reconnaissance to examine the boundary-line between Alaska and British Columbia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Amendment embodied in the Sundry Civil Expenses Bill.

FOR the expenses of a preliminary reconnaissance, to be made under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy, to examine the configuration of the Conventional boundary-line between Alaska and British Columbia, following the coast from Portland Channel to the 141st meridian, and to ascertain and report how far the natural features of the country permit the accurate location of the line of demarcation contemplated by the IIIrd and IVth Articles of the Convention between Great Britain and Russia of the 28th February, 1825, which boundary is reaffirmed in the Treaty of 1867, whereby Russia ceded the territory of Alaska to the United States, 50,000 dollars, to be immediately available; and the officer conducting such reconnaissance shall make such recommendations touching the practical establishment of the boundary-line as in his judgment may be necessary.

No. 6.

*Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.**Foreign Office, February 22, 1887.*

Sir,

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 6th November last, I transmit to you copies received from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington of an Appropriation Act passed by the United States' Senate;* and I am to request that, in laying this letter before Sir H. Holland, you will call his attention to the passage on pp. 49, 50, which provides for the expenses of a preliminary reconnaissance to examine the boundary-line between Alaska and British Columbia.

I am, &c.

(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 7.

Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 64.)

My Lord,

Washington, March 9, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 19th January last, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Congress has refused the appropriation for the preliminary survey of the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 17.)

Sir,

Downing Street, May 16, 1887.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Salisbury, copy of a despatch from the Governor-General of Canada, requesting to be furnished with an accurate copy of the Treaty of 1825.

I am to request that you will move Lord Salisbury to cause an accurate and duly attested copy of the Treaty in question, to be forwarded to me for transmission to Canada.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure in No. 8.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir H. T. Holland.

Sir,

Government House, Ottawa, April 28, 1887.

AT the instance of my Minister of the Interior, I have the honour to make application for an accurate and duly attested copy in the language in which it was originally written, and also of the translation from such language which was accepted by the British Plenipotentiary, of the Treaty of 1825, defining the boundary between the British possessions of North America, and the territory of Alaska,

Such versions of the text of the said Treaty as are at present at the disposal of my Minister, do not precisely agree, and are consequently presumed to be mere reprints or copies from other copies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 9.

Memorandum by Sir E. Hertslet.

A COPY of the *Convention* with Russia of the 16th (28th) February, 1825, is sent herewith, as well as a copy of the *Ratification* of that Convention.

They have both been copied from the originals, and have been carefully compared.

They are exact in their wording, but differ considerably in their punctuation, and this is of great importance with reference to Article III. Colonel Cameron drew specially attention to the punctuation of this Article in his Memorandum for the Colonial Office of the 9th April, 1886. (See p. 48 of Print.) In the *Convention* the words are: "La dite ligne remontera au nord le long de la passe, dite Portland Channel, jusqu'au point de la terre ferme où elle atteint le 56° degré de latitude nord;" but in the *Ratification* the passage runs thus: "La dite ligne remontera au nord le long de la passe dite Portland Channel jusqu'au point de la terre ferme où elle atteint le 56° degré de latitude nord," without any commas being placed after the words *passe* and *Channel*, which makes all the difference in the sense of the Article.

The Governor-General of Canada asks for a copy of the translation from the Treaty which was accepted by the British Plenipotentiary, but it does not exist in our archives, nor would it appear to exist in the archives of the Embassy at St. Petersburg, for when Sir R. Morier was written to on the subject in April last year he replied that the original documents and maps used during the negotiations precedent to the conclusion of the Convention of 1825 could not be found. (See p. 54 of Print.)

The Convention was signed in French only; but a translation of it in English was laid before Parliament with the French version in 1825.

Before sending the copy of the Convention and of the Ratification to the Colonial Office, I conclude they should be certified by Sir Julian Pauncefote as being correct copies from the original documents in the possession of Her Majesty's Government. The original Convention is here; but the Ratification is at the Public Record Office.

E. H.

May 27, 1887.

No. 10.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, June 14, 1887.

[Transmits Confidential Print (Alaska Boundary) 1886 (5439).]

No. 11.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 16, 1887.

IN reply to your letter of the 16th ultimo requesting a certified copy of the Convention with Russia dated the 28th February, 1825, respecting the Alaska boundary for transmission to the Government of Canada, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before Secretary Sir H. Holland, a copy of a Memorandum by the Librarian of this Department on the subject.*

I am also to inclose translation of the Convention in question as laid before Parliament, and also certified copies from the original of the Convention and of the Ratification.†

I am, &c.

(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 12.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. West.

(No. 140. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, June 25, 1887.

[Transmits Confidential Print (Alaska Boundary) 1886 (5439).]

No. 13.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 11.)

Sir,

Downing Street, July 11, 1887.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Henry Holland to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a despatch from the Governor-General of Canada, calling attention to certain points in the report of a reconnaissance in Alaska in 1883 made by Lieutenant Schwatka, of the United States' army.

Sir Henry Holland referred this despatch to Colonel Cameron, R.A., who has recently been engaged in examining records relating to the Alaska Boundary question, and I am to inclose a copy of a letter containing his observations upon the subject.

I am to request to be informed of any communication which Lord Salisbury may think proper to make to the United States' Government upon the matters referred to in these papers.

It would seem desirable that the error as to the position of Fort Selkirk should be corrected, and Lord Salisbury may perhaps think it right to take an opportunity, when conversing with the United States' Minister, of calling his attention to the statement in paragraph 2 of the Marquis of Lansdowne's despatch as to Lieutenant Schwatka having travelled without permission in Canadian territory whilst engaged in his military reconnaissance.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir H. Holland.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Government House, Ottawa, April 19, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Report by Mr. Burgess, Deputy of the Minister of the Interior, dealing with the subject of the military reconnaissance in Alaska made in 1883 by Lieutenant Frederick Schwatka, of the United States' army, under instructions from the United States' Secretary of War, which has been handed to me by my Minister of the Interior.

You will observe that Lieutenant Schwatka, while engaged on his "military reconnaissance" in Alaska, traversed British territory for a considerable distance without permission from my Government, or, as far as I am aware, from that of Her Majesty. It is not probable that such permission would have been refused had it been applied for, and my Government does not desire to attach undue importance to this incident.

It is noteworthy that Lieutenant Schwatka's Report contains a distinct admission of "the fact that the country beyond the Kotush Mountains lies in British territory," an admission which may be of use in the event of any discussion hereafter arising in regard to the location of the frontier.

I may also call your attention to the second of the two points to which Mr. Burgess especially refers, viz., that the United States' Secretary of War, in his despatch of the 1st December, 1884, speaks of Fort Selkirk on the Yukon River as being situated in Alaska. As this claim would certainly not be admitted by my Government, it is desirable that some opportunity should be found for making the Russian* Government aware that we regard Fort Selkirk as being in Canadian territory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Mr. Burgess to Mr. White.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Department of the Interior, Ottawa, March 23, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to direct your attention in writing, as I have already done verbally, to the report of the military reconnaissance in Alaska made in 1883 by Lieutenant Frederick Schwatka, of the United States' army, under instructions from the United States' Secretary of War. The Report mentioned is submitted herewith.

On the 7th April, 1883, Lieutenant Schwatka was instructed by the Brigadier-General commanding the Department of the Columbia to proceed to Alaska, for the purpose of gathering all information that could be obtained that would be valuable and important, especially to the military branch of the Government. In pursuance of those instructions, Lieutenant Schwatka left Portland, Oregon, on the 22nd May, 1883, and, as stated on the 12th page of his Report, his instructions being to endeavour to complete all information in each section of the country before proceeding to another, he had chosen the valley of the Yukon River as that district of the most importance in the territory, and of which little or nothing was known in a military sense; and because of the slow progress that had been made in previous explorations from the mouth of this river, on account of the swiftness of the current, he had concluded that he could best serve his purpose by descending it from its head. Early in the month of June he proceeded to carry out this purpose by sailing up the Chilkoot Inlet, and by way of Perrier Pass he reached Crater Lake, the head of the Yukon River, on the 11th June. On p. 20 of his Report he states: "The fact that the country beyond Perrier Pass, in the Kotush Mountains, lies in British territory (as shown by our astronomical observations and other geographical determinations when brought back and worked out), lessens the interest of this trail beyond the pass to the military authorities of our Government;" and yet for the distance of 783.3 miles, which he himself states to be the length of the Yukon River within British America, he prosecuted his military reconnaissances through the territory of a friendly country. True, the Brigadier-General commanding, in his despatch forwarding Lieutenant Schwatka's Report to Division Head-quarters, on the 15th May, 1884, states that "that part of the Report which embraces a survey of a portion of British America, with description of the same, was not called for by the letter

* *Qy. United States.*

of instructions;" while the publication of so much of the Report as had appeared in various newspapers and magazines, prior to its being submitted to the military authorities, "has been disapproved."

A copy of the Report was duly submitted by the Secretary of War to the United States' Senate, by a despatch dated the 1st December, 1884, in which it is described as "the official Report of Lieutenant Frederick Schwatka, 3rd Cavalry, of his military reconnaissance of 1883, from Chilkoot Inlet, Alaska, to Fort Selkirk, on Yukon River, Alaska, in compliance with the Resolution of the Senate of the 18th April, 1884."

There are two points to which I think it is desirable to direct your particular attention:—

1. That the expedition conducted by Lieutenant Schwatka was an invasion of the territory of a friendly country.

2. That the United States' Secretary of War, in his despatch of the 1st December, 1884, already referred to, speaks of Fort Selkirk, on the Yukon River, as being situated in Alaska, in defiance of the well-known fact that Fort Selkirk is within Canadian territory—a fact which is admitted and proved by Lieutenant Schwatka's survey of the Yukon River, in so far as that survey can be said to have proved anything.

I respectfully submit that at the present time this matter is deserving of, and ought to receive, attention at the hands of the Government of Canada.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. M. BURGESS,
Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.

Inclosure 3 in No. 13.

Colonel Cameron, R.A., to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Sheerness, May 30, 1887.

IN returning the despatch of the 19th April, 1887, from his Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, with accompanying correspondence transmitted to me on the 16th instant, I have the honour, in compliance with the desire of the Secretary of State, to submit the following remarks for his consideration.

My attention has been directed by the correspondence now returned to two questions, viz.:—

Is the Fort Selkirk referred to by Lieutenant Schwatka, of the United States' army, in his "Report of a Military Reconnaissance in Alaska made in 1883," in British or in United States' territory?

Is importance attachable to the statement by Lieutenant Schwatka (see p. 20 of his Report, that "the fact that the country beyond Perrier Pass, in the Kotush Mountains, lies in British territory (as shown by his party's astronomical observations, and other geographical determinations when brought back and worked out), lessened the interest of this trail beyond the pass to the military authorities of the United States' Government?

Premising that no opinion nor decision by Lieutenant Schwatka can be accepted as internationally authoritative with regard to the boundary between Alaska and Her Majesty's territories, I nevertheless have no doubt that his statements that the site of Fort Selkirk and the country north of Perrier Pass are in British territory, will prove to be quite correct.

The suggestion that the United States' Government consider the site of Fort Selkirk as being in United States' territory is apparently due to an error in the wording of the Resolution adopted by the United States' Senate on the 18th April, 1884, in which the reconnaissance is described as extending from "Chilkoot Inlet, Alaska, to Fort Selkirk, on Yukon River, Alaska" (see p. 1 of the Report "Ex. Doc. No. 2, 48th Congress, 2nd session—Senate").

This error may easily be traced to Lieutenant Schwatka's re-naming of streams he followed.

His Report was not rendered, even in manuscript, to the military authorities until some time after the Resolution in the Senate had been adopted, and was not transmitted to the Government until over six months thereafter.

Lieutenant Schwatka's instructions had been to carry out a reconnaissance within Alaska, and, consequently, the framer of the Resolution not having the Report to refer to, would naturally assume that the terminal points of the reconnaissance were in Alaska, and would so describe them. Moreover, the name "Yukon River" had formerly been limited to the stream wholly within United States' Alaska, from the junction of Porcupine and Pelly Rivers; but Lieutenant Schwatka (see Report, p. 33) re-named

Lewes River, calling it "Yukon River," and extended the same name to 284 miles of Pelly River the continuation of his route to the commencement of the stream previously known as Yukon River, at the inflow of Porcupine River.

Consequently it might well be that the framers of the United States' Senate Resolution, having learnt that Schwatka's party placed Fort Selkirk on the Yukon, did not know that the River Pelly was meant, and naturally assumed the position was on the Yukon in United States' territory.

The recurrence of the error in the letters of the United States' military authorities are mere quotations of the Senate's Resolution.

There is, however, no doubt as to Lieutenant Schwatka's opinion.

The title of Map No. 5 attached to his Report notes that Part 2 extends "from Fort Selkirk, B.C., to Fort Yukon, Alaska." "B.C." here stands for "British Columbia."

Fort Selkirk is shown on this Map as opposite the inflow of Pelly River.

At p. 33 of his Report Lieutenant Schwatka gives the latitude and longitude of the site of Fort Selkirk (destroyed in 1851) as $62^{\circ} 43' 30''$ north, and $137^{\circ} 22' 45''$ west (Greenwich), but Her Majesty's territory by treaty extends farther west, to 141° west, as Lieutenant Schwatka well knew (see his itinerary, p. 47 of his Report).

If it be deemed desirable to afford the United States' Government an opportunity to correct the error in the Senate Resolution, I have little doubt they would immediately do so were their attention drawn to the point by a simple inquiry whether it is to be understood that they consider the site of Fort Selkirk to be in United States' territory, as indicated by the Senate Resolution of the 18th April, 1884.

The reference to Perrier Pass by Lieutenant Schwatka is, I regret to say, of a much less satisfactory character.

It cannot be admitted that the watershed line when within 10 marine leagues of the ocean is the location of the boundary defined by the Treaty with Russia of 1825, for this would be equivalent to conceding that 10 marine leagues is to be the unvarying breadth of United States' coast territory in South Alaska, a concession opposed to the terms of the Treaty.

Nor can it be admitted that the distance from the ocean is to be measured from the heads of creeks and inlets.

I believe Perrier Pass is far beyond 10 marine leagues inland from the ocean, and that there is a line of mountain crests, intercepted if it is true by Lynn Channel, of which Chilkoot Inlet forms a part, much closer than 10 marine leagues to the ocean coastline.

It would not, however, I think, be advisable to raise an exceptional discussion on this point with the United States' Government if there be any prospect that an opportunity may hereafter be found for dealing with the whole British Alaskan boundary at one time.

In the correspondence that took place with reference to the Stickeen River Customs, and the demand by the United States' Government that a prisoner conveyed through United States' territory there should be released by the Canadian authorities, there was, unfortunately, introduced an argument founded on the location of the boundary at the spot.

Decisions thus arrived at will very much interfere with negotiations in which recourse to mutual yielding may be necessary when the question of the whole boundary is being dealt with.

For these reasons, I would respectfully submit for consideration that either the Senate Resolution and Lieutenant Schwatka's Report may be wholly ignored by Her Majesty's Government, or, if the Senate Resolution be touched on, then at the same time the United States' Government should be informed that Her Majesty's Government having noted that Lieutenant Schwatka has indicated in his Report two points at which he determined the international boundary to be, Perrier Pass and 141° west longitude, cannot accord even qualified assent to those determinations.

To the justice of such an intimation the United States could hardly take exception, since Her Majesty's Government have more than once expressed their desire that an international adjustment of the line should be effected.

I have to apologize for the delay which has occurred in making the foregoing reply to your letter of the 16th instant. I was away from Sheerness then, and did not return until the 23rd instant, when further delay was caused by my not having a copy of Lieutenant Schwatka's Report to which to refer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. R. CAMERON.

No. 14.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 2, 1887.

IN reply to your letter of the 11th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you a draft of a despatch which his Lordship proposes to address to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington in regard to Lieutenant Schwatka's Report of the reconnaissance made by him in Alaska in 1883.*

I am to request that, in laying the same before Sir H. Holland, you will move him to inform Lord Salisbury whether he concurs in its terms.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 15.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 20.)

Sir,

Downing Street, August 19, 1887.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Henry Holland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, and to state that he concurs in the terms of the communication which the Marquis of Salisbury proposes to address to the United States' Government with reference to Lieutenant Schwatka's Report on his reconnaissance in Alaska.

The inclosure to your letter is returned herewith.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

No. 16.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. West.

(No. 206.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 20, 1887.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 14 of the 19th January last, and to previous correspondence relating to the question of the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia, I transmit, for your information, copies of a letter from the Colonial Office, with its inclosures, calling attention to certain points in the Report made by Lieutenant Schwatka, of the United States' army, of a reconnaissance made by him in Alaska in 1883, of which a copy accompanied your despatch No. 113 of the 20th April, 1886.

You will notice, as is pointed out in this correspondence, that in the wording of the Resolution adopted by the United States' Senate on the 18th April, 1884, the reconnaissance is described as extending from "Chilkoot Inlet, Alaska, to Fort Selkirk, on Yukon River, Alaska."

But, as is shown in sheet 5 attached to Lieutenant Schwatka's Report, Part II of the Map of the routes followed by him extends "from Fort Selkirk, B.C., to Fort Yukon, Alaska" (B. C. standing for British Columbia); and at p. 33 of his Report the latitude and longitude of the site of Fort Selkirk is given as 62° 45' 30" north, and 137° 22' 45" west, which is well within the territory belonging to this country, which extends as far as 141° west.

It will also be seen, on referring to pp. 20 and 47 of the Report, that Lieutenant Schwatka has indicated two points, viz., Perrier's Pass and 140° west longitude, which he has determined as defining the international boundary.

Her Majesty's Government, as you are aware, have agreed in principle to take part in a preliminary investigation of the Alaska boundary question, but they are not prepared to admit that the points referred to by Lieutenant Schwatka in any way fix where the line should be drawn.

Lieutenant Schwatka, in the course of his military reconnaissance in Alaska, appears to have traversed British territory for a considerable distance; but, so far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, no intimation of such a desire on his part was conveyed to any of the British authorities. They do not attach any importance to this fact, and no doubt, had their acquiescence been asked, it would not have been refused.

Her Majesty's Government have no desire at the present moment to raise any discussion in regard to the question of the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia: but in order that it may not be prejudiced hereafter by absence of remark on their part on the points alluded to above, I request that you will in a friendly manner call Mr. Bayard's attention to the observations contained in this despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 17.

Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 267.)

My Lord,

Washington, September 15, 1887.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 206 of the 20th ultimo, I have called the attention of Mr. Bayard to the observations therein contained on Lieutenant Schwatka's Report of a military reconnaissance in Alaska in a note and Memorandum, copies of which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Sir L. West to Mr. Bayard.

Sir,

Washington, September 14, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to you herewith a Memorandum calling the attention of the United States' Government to certain points in the Report made by Lieutenant Schwatka, of the United States' army, of a reconnaissance made by him in Alaska, and to observe at the same time that he traversed British territory for a considerable distance without any intimation having been given to the British authorities of his intention of so doing.

I may add, however, that Her Majesty's Government do not attach any importance to this fact, and that no doubt had their acquiescence been asked it would not have been refused.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Memorandum.

IN the wording of the Resolution adopted by the United States' Senate on the 18th April, 1884, the reconnaissance of Lieutenant Schwatka is described as extending from "Chilkoot Inlet, Alaska, to Fort Selkirk, on Yukon River, Alaska." But, as is shown in sheet 5 attached to Lieutenant Schwatka's Report, Part 2 of the Map of the routes followed by him extends from Fort Selkirk, B. C. (standing for British Columbia); and at p. 33 of his Report the latitude and longitude of Fort Selkirk is given as 62° 45' 30" north and 137° 22' 45" west, which is well within the territory belonging to Great Britain, which extends as far as 141° west.

It will also be seen on referring to pp. 20 and 47 of the Report, that Lieutenant Schwatka has indicated two points, viz., Perrier Pass and 141° west longitude, which he has determined as defining the international boundary.

Although Her Majesty's Government have agreed in principle to take part in a preliminary investigation of the Alaska boundary question, they are not prepared to admit that the points referred to by Lieutenant Schwatka in any way fix where the line should be drawn.

It is not sought to raise any discussion at the present moment in regard to the position of the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia; but in order that it may not be prejudiced hereafter by absence of remark on the points alluded to above, Her Majesty's Government have thought it expedient to call the attention of the United States' Government to the foregoing observations.

No. 18.

Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 270.)

My Lord,

Washington, September 18, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 267 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of the note of the Secretary of State, acknowledging the receipt of my communication respecting certain points in Lieutenant Schwatka's Report, and in which your Lordship will perceive that the term "alleged" British territory is used.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Mr. Adee to Sir L. West.

Sir,

Department of State, Washington, September 16, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 14th instant, inclosing a Memorandum relative to certain points in the Report made by Lieutenant Schwatka, of the United States' army, of a reconnaissance made by him in Alaska, with regard to which you observe that he traversed alleged British territory for a considerable distance without any intimation having been given to the British authorities of his intention of so doing.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ALVEY A. ADEE, *Acting Secretary.*

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